DID YOU HEAR?
IT SEEMS SOME PEOPLE SNATCHED UP AN ORPHAN FROM THE NEIGHBORING TOWN FOR THE SLAVE TRADE.
I HAD HEARD ABOUT THAT HAPPENING RECENTLY BUT IT'S SURE A DISTURBING STORY.
Tap
Tap
RUMORS IN A CERTAIN TOWN?
ON THAT SUBJECT, I HEARD THIS FROM THE OLD FORTUNE-TELLER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD BUT.
THIS TOWN'S HAD GOOD PUBLIC ORDER FOR MANY YEARS. I WONDER IF THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE YEARLY ABUNDANT HARVESTS?
For about 5 years now?
Tap
Tap
SHE SAID SOMEONE LOVED BY THE TOWNS-PEOPLE HAS COME TO THIS PLACE NOW.
HUH? LIKE SOME SORT OF HAR-VEST GOD OR SOMETHING?
NAH. I DON'T REALLY KNOW BUT HE'S CALLED
THE "CLAY LORD".

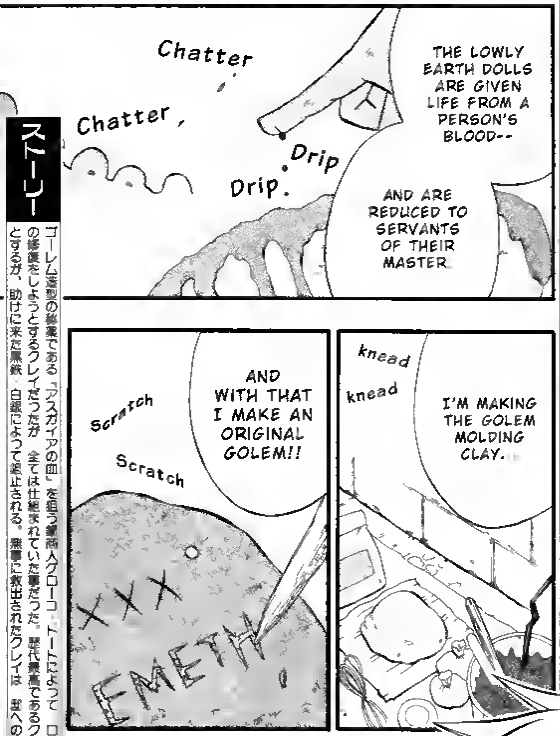
Suzumoto
Jun

クレイ・ロード

CLAY・LORD

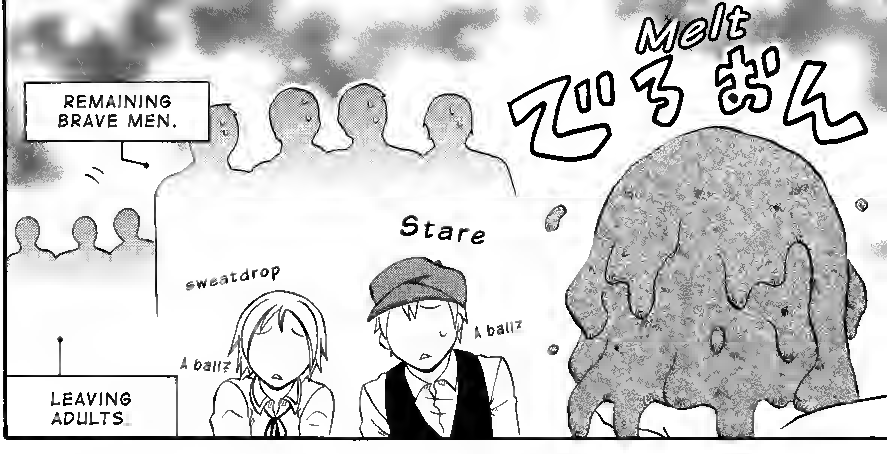
Chapter 5: Meeting

CLAY・LORD－土の王－

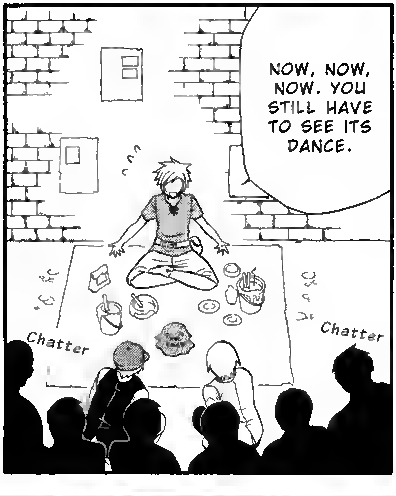


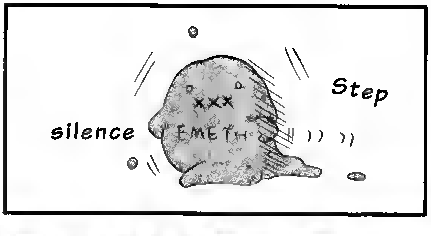
ストーリー

ゴーレム造形の名家である"アスガイアの血"を狙う悪商人クローコ・ドートによって口ゼと一緒に拉致されて連れ去られたクレイ。牢から脱出し、囚われた口ゼの修復をしようとするクレイだったが、全ては仕組まれていた事だった。歴代最高であるクレイの血を受けたゴーレムは暴走し、ドートは城を飲めて脱出しようとするが、訪れに来た黒鉄・白銀によって阻止される。黒鉄に救出されたクレイは、里への帰り道、黒鉄におぶられながら自身の過去を思い出していた――。

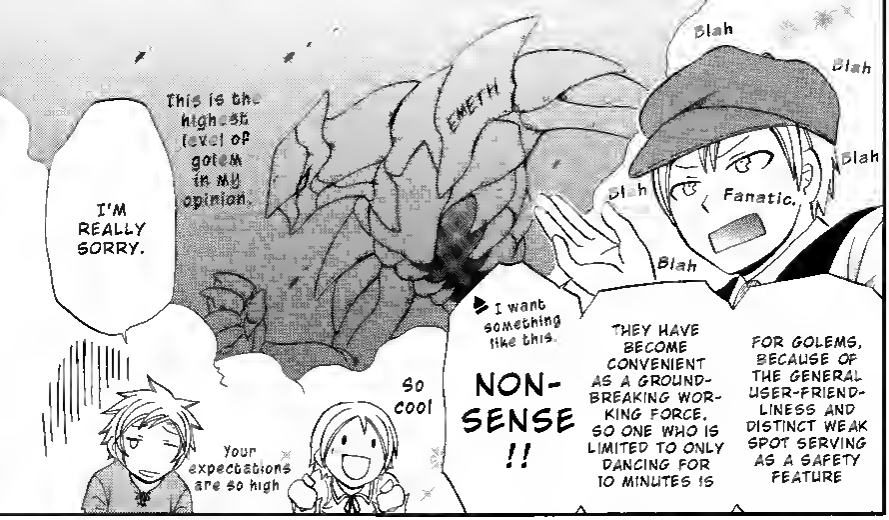

Melt
ごろぉん
REMAINING BRAVE MEN.
LEAVING ADULTS.
Stare
sweatdrop
A ballz
A ballz

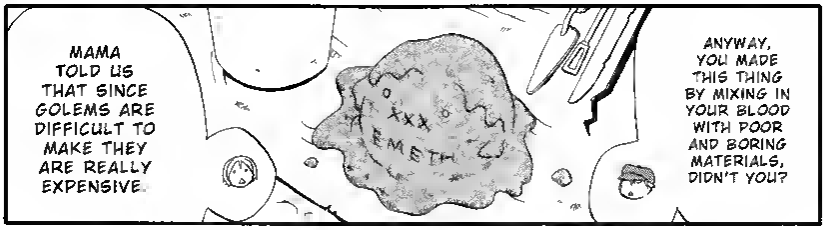
Swoo
Swoo
EMETH


NOW, NOW, NOW. YOU STILL HAVE TO SEE ITS DANCE.
Chatter
Chatter

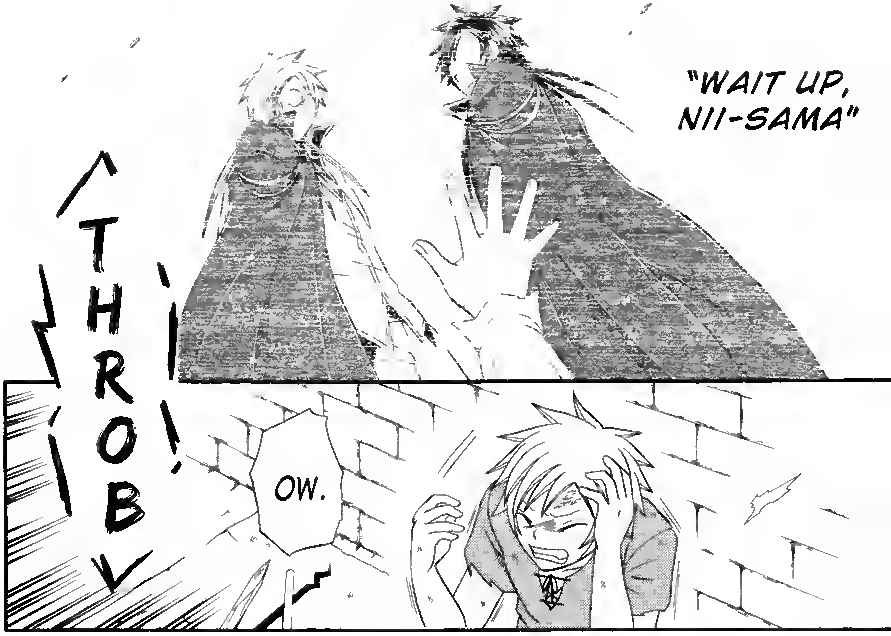

Step
silence
EMETH

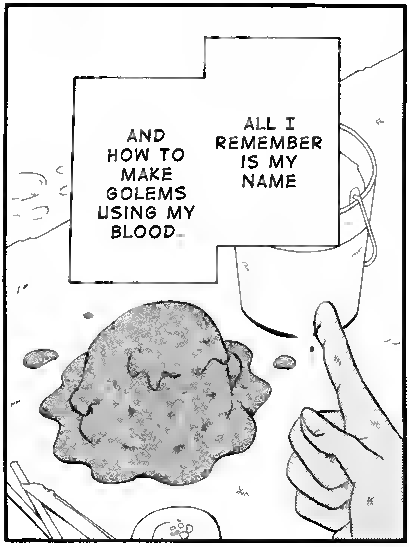
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
Group nod
AT LEAST MAKE IT WORK UNTIL YOU CAN SELL IT!
And stop trying to swindle people!!
WITH MY SKILLS THE GOLEM'S LIMIT FOR MOVEMENT IS ONLY 10 SECONDS...

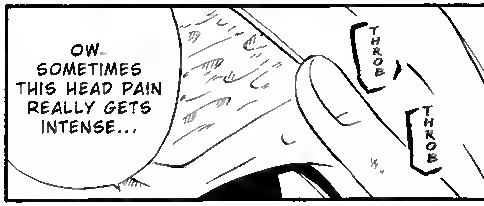

Blah
Blah
Blah
Blah
Blah
Fanatic.
EMETH
This is the highest level of golem in my opinion.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
Your expectations are so high
So cool
I want something like this.
NON-SENSE !!
THEY HAVE BECOME CONVENIENT AS A GROUND-BREAKING WORKING FORCE. SO ONE WHO IS LIMITED TO ONLY DANCING FOR 10 MINUTES IS
FOR GOLEMS, BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL USER-FRIENDLINESS AND DISTINCT WEAK SPOT SERVING AS A SAFETY FEATURE


MAMA TOLD US THAT SINCE GOLEMS ARE DIFFICULT TO MAKE THEY ARE REALLY EXPENSIVE
EMETH
ANYWAY, YOU MADE THIS THING BY MIXING IN YOUR BLOOD WITH POOR AND BORING MATERIALS, DIDN'T YOU?

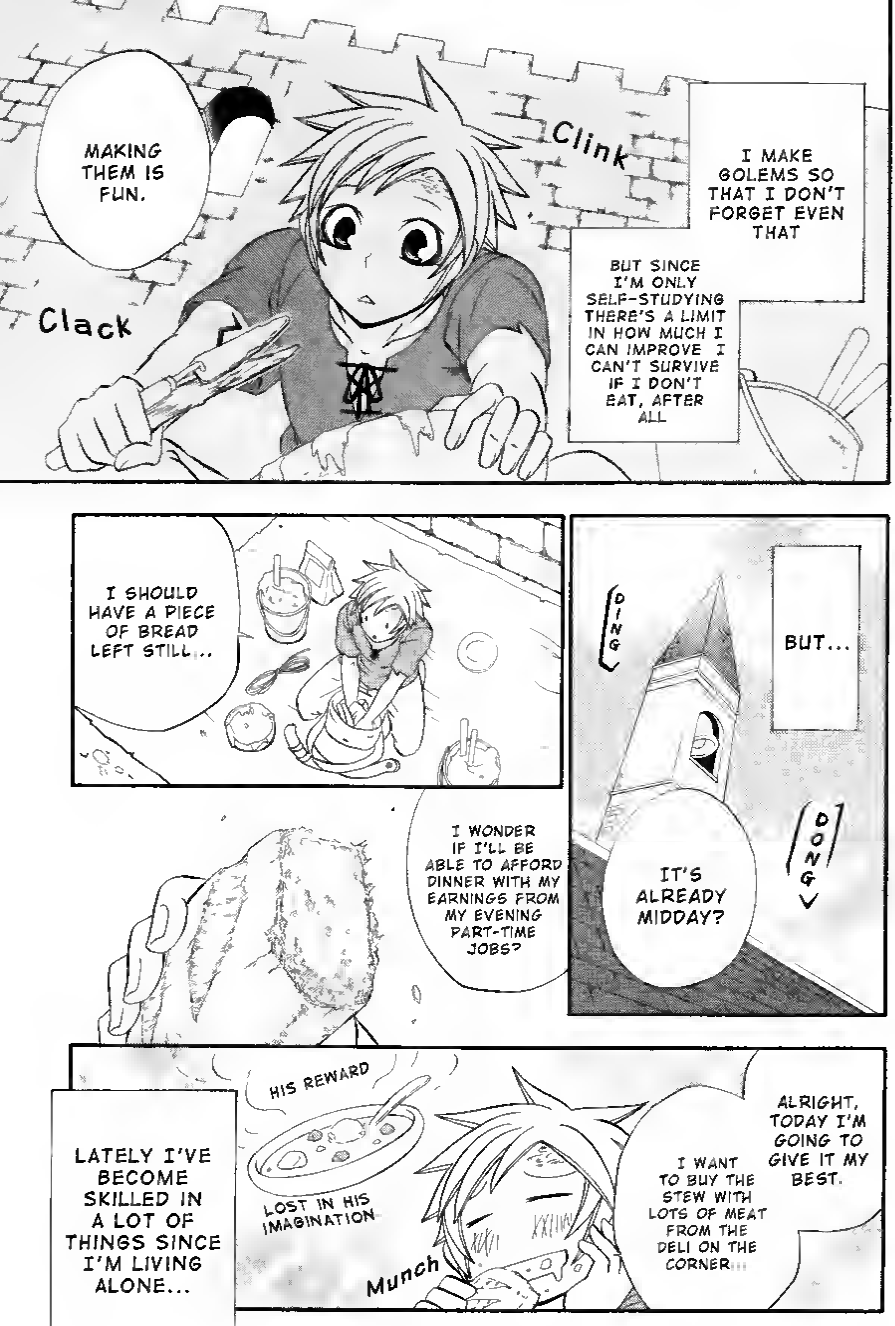
PROBABLY THE STEW FROM YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
I WONDER WHAT'S FOR LUNCH TODAY?
.....
AH, WAIT UP, NII-CHAN!
Ridiculous
IN THE END THIS IS JUST LIKE VENTRILOQUISM, ISN'T IT? LET'S GO
Turn
Rush
AH.







I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES FROM BEFORE 5 YEARS AGO.


Clink
Clack
MAKING THEM IS FUN.
I MAKE GOLEMS SO THAT I DON'T FORGET EVEN THAT
BUT SINCE I'M ONLY SELF-STUDYING THERE'S A LIMIT IN HOW MUCH I CAN IMPROVE I CAN'T SURVIVE IF I DON'T EAT, AFTER ALL
I SHOULD HAVE A PIECE OF BREAD LEFT STILL...
DING
DONG
BUT...
IT'S ALREADY MIDDAY?
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD DINNER WITH MY EARNINGS FROM MY EVENING PART-TIME JOBS?
HIS REWARD
LOST IN HIS IMAGINATION
Munch
I WANT TO BUY THE STEW WITH LOTS OF MEAT FROM THE DELI ON THE CORNER...
ALRIGHT, TODAY I'M GOING TO GIVE IT MY BEST.
LATELY I'VE BECOME SKILLED IN A LOT OF THINGS SINCE I'M LIVING ALONE...

I'VE MOSTLY STOPPED THINKING ABOUT THINGS LIKE "WHO AM I?"
SOME-TIMES I AM BOTHERED BY THE MEMORIES THAT FLOAT INTO MY HEAD.
LIVING ALONE IS REALLY TOUGH AND EVERYDAY IS HECTIC.
BUT IT'S FULFILLING IN ITS OWN WAYS
BUT THAT ONLY HAPPENS OCCASION-ALLY——

YES, IT'S ONLY JUST A LITTLE, BUT...
I THINK THAT'S A LITTLE BIT LONELY.
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYONE THAT I HAD CONNE-CTIONS WITH EITHER...
Clatter
Rattle
...NOW THEN, I HAVE TO QUICKLY TIDY UP AND GO TO MY PART-TIME JOB.
WE HAVE FINALLY FOUND OUR MASTER.

I AM SHIRO-GANE.
I'M KURO-GANE.
WE WERE SEARCHING FOR YOU, CLAY-SAMA.
WHAT..?
WHO ARE YOU...? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME...?
SHOCK
!?
ZSSH
WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU.

HEAD OF THE MOST PROMINENT NOBLE FAMILY OF GOLEM MOLDERS, THE EARTHGAIA.
CLAY EARTHGAIA -SAMA.
WE HAVE COME TO MEET WITH YOU,
COME AGAIN?
WHAT'S GOING ON!? THIS IS SORTA SCARY.
I DON'T KNOW THESE GUYS AT ALL... AND WHAT'S AN EARTHGAIA!?
@G ぐる ぐる
I WANTED TO MEET YOU, YOUNG MASTER!!
GABAH
H!!!!H!?
AH, HE'S BEING CHILDISH. ANYWAY, SHALL WE RETURN TO THE ESTATE IMMEDIATELY?
Push
HUH!? WHAT!? WHAT'S ALL THIS!?

Heh
Heh
Heh
COULD IT BE THAT THESE GUYS ARE HUMAN TRAFFIC-KERS!?
It seems some people snatched up an orphan from the neighboring town for the slave trade
faint memory
VILLAGER A'S TESTIMONY
Silence
GASP
Panic
Panic
AH, UM, YOU HAVE THE WRONG GUY! I SERIOUSLY HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!
I'M SORRY!! RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO GO TO WORK!!
Clatter
Clatter
DASH
So fast.
...WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

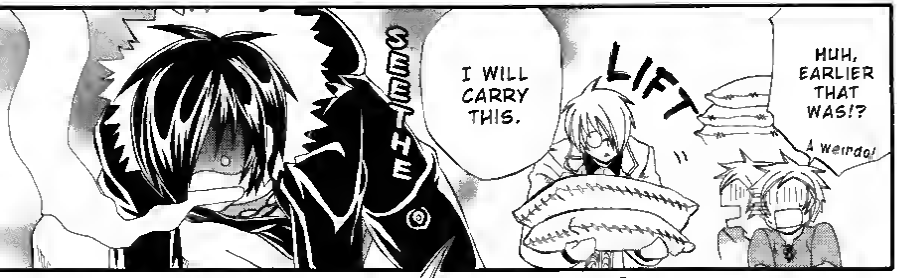
THE YOUNG MASTER DOESN'T KNOW US.
NO, NOT JUST TO MENTION US.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SHIRO-GANE?
I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO RUN AWAY.
.....
THE FACT THAT HE ALSO DOESN'T REMEM-BER OUR "FACES"
IS CERTAINLY A LITTLE STRANGE.
THE EARTHGAIA ESTATE AND FORTUNE WERE ALL PREVIOUSLY THE YOUNG MASTER'S, RIGHT?
WE ONLY CAME TO PASS THAT ALONG TO HIM...

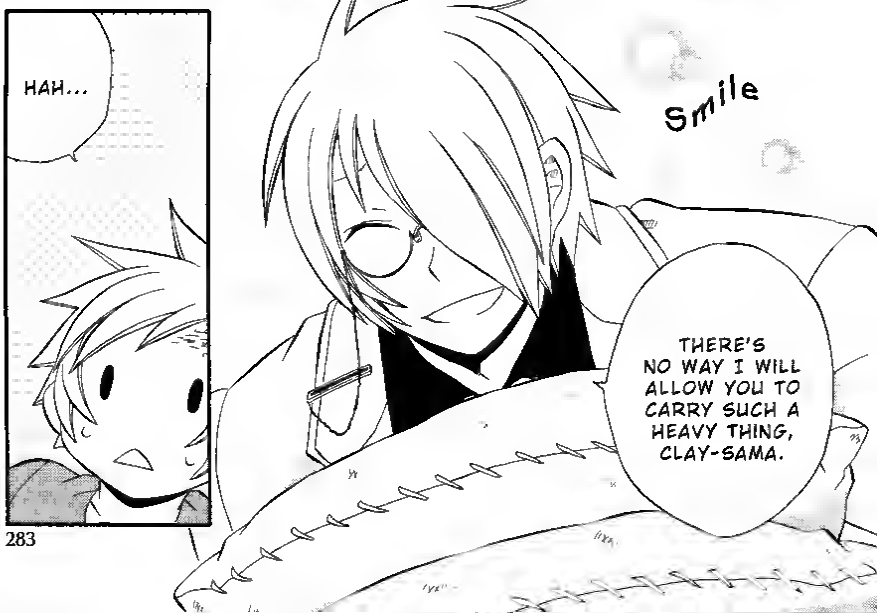
IN EITHER CASE, WHEREVER CLAY-SAMA IS AT
IS WHERE WE BELONG.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
WE EXIST FOR THE SAKE OF OUR MASTER.
BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT WE WERE TROUBLING CLAY-SAMA.
HE WAS PROBABLY CONFUSED BY THE SUDDENNESS OF OUR APPEARANCE
ANYWAY, LET'S LOOK OVER THE STATE OF AFFAIRS FOR A WHILE
OKAY!
Rumble
OI, PART-TIMER, BRING THAT PICKAXE OVER HERE.
Clang
Clang

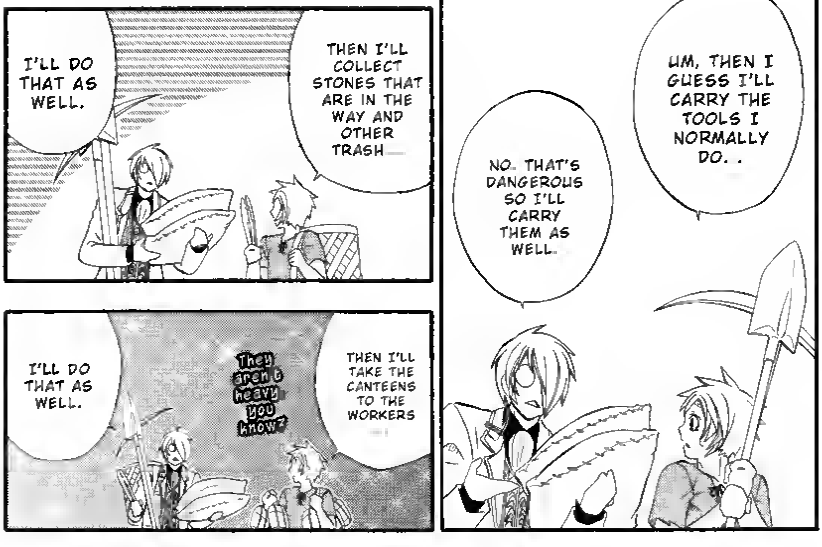
ゴゴゴ RUMBLE ゴゴゴ
BOSS, YOUR EXCAVATION GOLEMS ARE AS POWERFUL AS EVER!
YEP! THEY'RE MY PARTNERS AND HARD WORKERS!
SOME DAY I WANT TO BE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH SPLENDID GOLEMS TOO!
WOOOOW
GEEZ, I WISH MY IDIOT SON WAS THIS OBEDIENT.
sigh
Trot Trot Trot
OKAY, BOSS VANA-DIUM!
FOR NOW TAKE THIS SHOVEL INSTEAD, BOY.

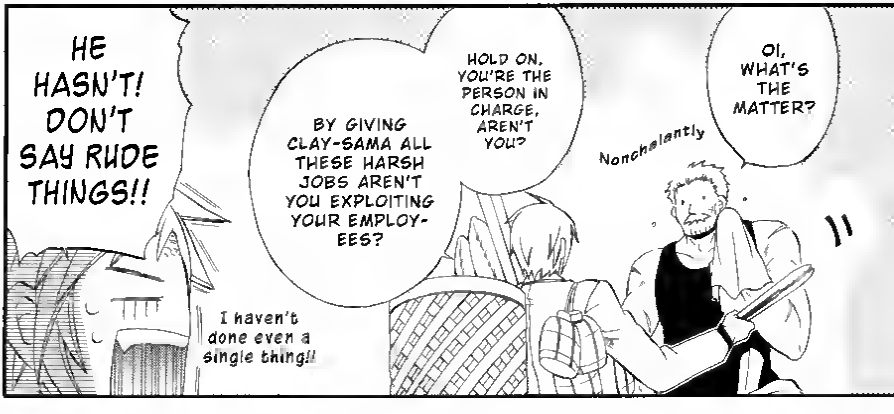
OH, OKAY!
MASSIVE
OI, SMALL-FRY, CARRY THIS STUFF TOO.
OI, CARNOT, THAT'S YOUR JOB, ISN'T IT?
That small-fry can't manage that
IT'S THE SAME NO MATTER WHO DOES IT, RIGHT?
THAT SHITTY FATHER OF MINE SHOULDN'T PUT HIS SON IN SUCH A LOW POSITION.
WELL, IF I CAN PUSH THE WORK OFF ONTO SOMEONE LOWER THAN ME THEN I DON'T MIND SO MUCH.
Awful.
Gahahaha
HEAVY
ANYTIME I WANT SOME POCKET MONEY HE TELLS ME TO HELP OUT.
I'm so tired.
If you want money, you'll have to earn it through manual labor!!!
You brat!!
FAIR ARGUMENT.
SFX: RAWG

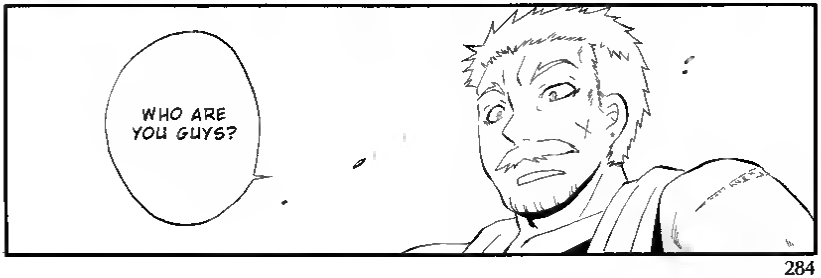
ドゴ!!
BASH
HOW DARE YOU TRY PUSHING YOUR JOB OFF ONTO THE YOUNG MASTER, YOU BASTARD!!

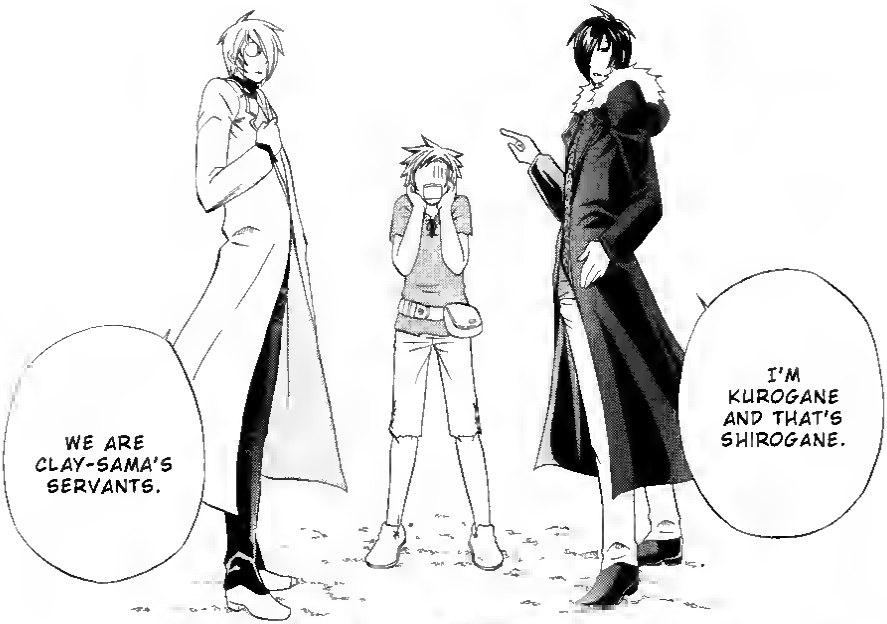

SMILE
I WILL CARRY THIS.
LIFT
HUH, EARLIER THAT WAS!?
A weirdo!


HAH...
Smile
THERE'S NO WAY I WILL ALLOW YOU TO CARRY SUCH A HEAVY THING, CLAY-SAMA.

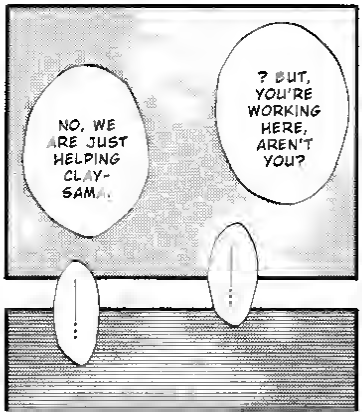

UM, THEN I GUESS I'LL CARRY THE TOOLS I NORMALLY DO. .
NO. THAT'S DANGEROUS SO I'LL CARRY THEM AS WELL.
THEN I'LL COLLECT STONES THAT ARE IN THE WAY AND OTHER TRASH...
I'LL DO THAT AS WELL.
THEN I'LL TAKE THE CANTEENS TO THE WORKERS
They aren't heavy, you know?
I'LL DO THAT AS WELL.

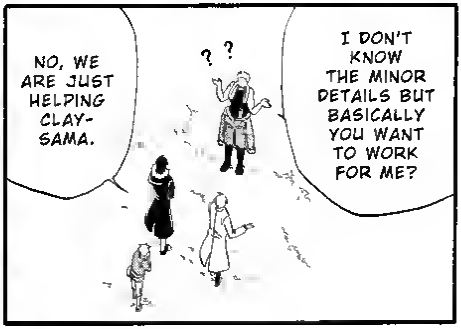

OI, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Nonchalantly
HOLD ON, YOU'RE THE PERSON IN CHARGE, AREN'T YOU?
BY GIVING CLAY-SAMA ALL THESE HARSH JOBS AREN'T YOU EXPLOITING YOUR EMPLOYEES?
HE HASN'T! DON'T SAY RUDE THINGS!!
I haven't done even a single thing!!


WHO ARE YOU GUYS?


WE ARE CLAY-SAMA'S SERVANTS.
I'M KUROGANE AND THAT'S SHIROGANE.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW AS WELL!!
BUWAAAH!
?
...BOY, EXPLAIN.

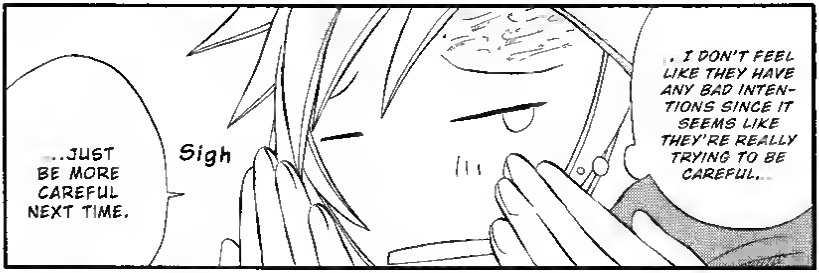

NO, WE ARE JUST HELPING CLAY-SAMA.
? BUT, YOU'RE WORKING HERE, AREN'T YOU?
...
...


NO, WE ARE JUST HELPING CLAY-SAMA.
? ?
I DON'T KNOW THE MINOR DETAILS BUT BASICALLY YOU WANT TO WORK FOR ME?

"CARRYING PACKAGES"
SINCE THEN THOSE TWO HAVE SHOWED UP AT ALL OF MY PART-TIME JOBS.
I'M SORRY, YOUNG MASTER
POTATO
Gulp
"PEELING POTATOES"
YOUNG MASTER!! THAT'S A KNIFE!! WE'LL DO IT INSTEAD!!
KUROGANE'S TRASH
POTATO
PEEL
SHIROGANE'S PEELS
ALL IN ONE PIECE
CLAY'S PEELS.
STOP IT ALREADY!!
Nag
Nag
THIS KNIFE IS RATHER DULL, ON THE OTHER HAND, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE DANGEROUS? WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF CLAY-SAMA HAD GOTTEN HURT?
ARE YOU THE SHOP KEEPER?
Nag

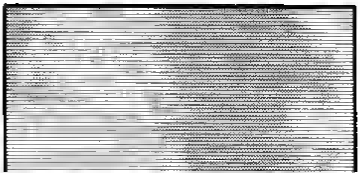
CRASH
SMASH
wipe
"WASHING DISHES"
EH
TILLING THE LAND AND DIGGING A HOLE ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS, YOU KNOW!?
Even Shirogane!?
"FARMWORK"
I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry
MANAGER
...CAN'T YOU JUST FORGIVE US?
I WAS FIRED FROM ALL MY PART-TIME JOBS...
Rather not a single one ended well
I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry
FARM OWNER
ENDLESSLY.

I'M SORRY, I'M SO SORRY, YOUNG MASTER!!
I'LL DO IT RIGHT NEXT TIME!! I WON'T MAKE ANYMORE MISTAKES!!
WAAAAAAAH
MY GREATEST APOLOGIES, CLAY-SAMA
I WILL BE SURE TO THINK MORE ABOUT MY ACTIONS FROM NOW ON


..I DON'T FEEL LIKE THEY HAVE ANY BAD INTENTIONS SINCE IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE REALLY TRYING TO BE CAREFUL..
Sigh
..JUST BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME.

THEY'RE MOVED BY KINDNESS, HUH...?

Glow
OKAY!



SHAA
SEVERAL DAYS LATER
THERE'S DANGER OF A ROCK SLIDE!!
WE'RE GOING TO STOP THE EXCAVATION FOR TODAY!!
Flap
Rush
SHAAA
METH
IT'S RAINING!!
BOSS!! PLEASE STOP THE GOLEM!!
Gleam
WHAT!? BUT I PLANNED TO HAVE A DINNER FULL OF MEAT TONIGHT!!
SHAAA
Uooh
BE MORE FRUGAL!!
Shhaaaa
NO WAAAAY.

SIGH.
AND TODAY I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO GO ALL OUT AND HAVE A NICE MEAL
YOUNG MASTER, YOU'RE GONNA CATCH A COLD. LET'S RETURN TO THE TOWN.
CLAY-SAMA, IT'S FINE IF YOU USE OUR MONEY, YOU KNOW?
Sigh
IS THAT SO? IF THINGS GET TOUGH I'LL BORROW SOME TO BUY BREAD THEN
Thanks
Meat...
CLAY-SAMA.
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE MEAN...
SHALL WE RETURN TO THE EARTH-GAIA ESTATE?

I'M TELLING YOU, YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON
NO!!
IF YOU DID THAT YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FOOD.
YOU WOULDN'T GET SOAKED IN THE RAIN AND BECOME COLD EITHER!!
AND BESIDES THAT!!
IS THE EARTHGAIA BLOOD!!
THE ONLY BLOOD THAT CAN BE MIXED WITH SOIL IN ORDER TO CREATE GOLEMS
SHAAAAAA
WE
COULD NEVER BE MISTAKEN ABOUT YOU!!

...CUT IT OUT...
SUDDENLY SHOWING UP AND TALKING ABOUT THINGS THAT MAKE NO SENSE...
YOU'RE JUST CONFUSING ME EVERY DAY!! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!!
CLAY...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE EARTHGAIA!!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT I CAN PERSONALLY KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT!!
I TRULY WANT TO BELIEVE THEM.
SOME-THING THAT'S BEEN COVERED THIS WHOLE TIME IS NOW FLOWING TO THE SURFACE...
BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES FROM LONG AGO!!
I'M AFRAID OF THOSE LOST MEMORIES I'M CLINGING TO IN ORDER TO BELIEVE IT —

SHAAAAA
HOW ABOUT WE SURPRISE THEM A LITTLE?
I DON'T KNOW THEIR CONNECTION BUT I'D LIKE TO TEACH THEM SOME MANNERS.
SHIROGANE AND KUROGANE ARE REALLY IRRITATING. CLAY TOO.
LET'S HAVE THEM REPORT A LIE TO MY DAD
THAT THE GOLEM IS STILL MOVING AND DIDN'T STOP RIGHT AWAY.
It'll be worth some laughs
GOLEM! I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM THE BOSS!
START THE EXCAVATION!!
EMETH
BUT THAT THING ONLY LISTENS TO THE BOSS' ORDERS, RIGHT?
IDIOT, RIGHT NOW IT'S SET UP TO LISTEN TO ME TOO.
IT'S LIMITED TO WORK THINGS BUT THIS MUCH IS ALRIGHT.

THE GOLEM IS MOVING ON ITS OWN!?
WASN'T THE EXCAVATION SUPPOSED TO BE FINISHED FOR TODAY!?
SFX: RUMBLE
ROAR
!?
EAETH
WAH!?
CRACK
RUMBLE
THIS IS HORRIBLE!! WE HAVE TO LET THE BOSS KNOW!!

HUH?
YOUNG MASTER!!
CLAY-SAMA!!

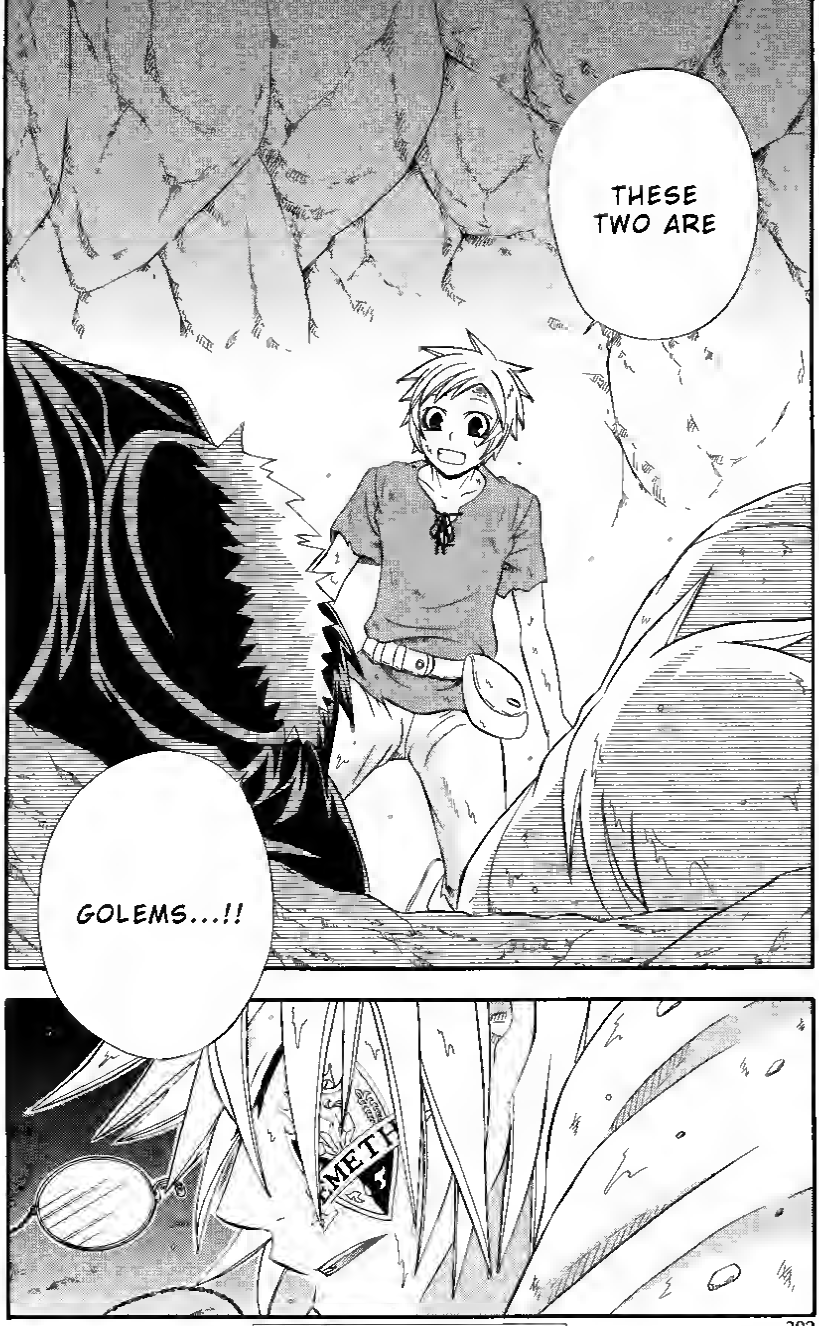
ZSSSSH
THROB

— "CLAY" —
SFX: ROAR
ゴォオオ
PULSE
PULSE
— "WE'RE SORRY" —
ザァアアア
SFX: SHHF
PULSE
— "WE LOVE YOU" —
PULSE
"SHALL WE READ A BOOK?"
"WE'LL MAKE A GOLEM."
"THE BROTHERS ARE IMMORTAL."
"IT'S OKAY."
"IT'S NOT HOT AT ALL."
— LIARS —

HYOUH
THROB
DOKI!
...HUH...?
DRIP
...OH YEAH, I FELL FROM THE CLIFF...
... I FELL RIGHT INTO THE CREVICE OF THE ROCK.
WHAT A RELIEF. IT SEEMS I DON'T HAVE ANY MAJOR WOUNDS.
OUCH...

SHOCK
THAT'S RIGHT!! SHIROGANE, KUROGANE, ARE YOU OKAY!?
...THAT'S RIGHT, THOSE TWO DEFINITELY PROTECTED ME..
GASP

KUROGANE'S ...ARM—
SHIROGANE'S ...LEG—
THESE WOUNDS ARE—!!
THEY'RE NOT... BLEEDING...?



CLAY NOW KNOWS THE TRUE IDENTITIES OF KUROGANE AND SHIROGANE!?

ZERO-SUM 11月号 9月20日発売 に続く

TRANSLATOR/CLEANER:
MORBID CHARADE

TYPESETTER/REDRAWS:
WOLF